

**Developmental Disabilities Council Minutes
Courtyard Marriott, Federal Way
November 19, 2004**

Present

George Walker (Chair), Bill Anderson, BJ Flaherty, Vickie Foster, Larry Garman, Suzanne Gries, Mike Hatch, Alphonso Lee, Erin Platts, Carol Shaw, MJ Sizemore, Rita Wang, Laethan Wene, Julie Williamson-Purdy, Diana Zottman, Janet Adams (DDD), Sherrie Brown (UAP), Lou Colwell (OSPI), Joelle Brouner (P&A), Patty McDonald (ADS),

Absent

Kim Blume, Lori Flood, Sherri Huwe, Clara Link, Sara McQueed, Marijo Olson (CTED), David Kludt (MHD),

Staff

Ed Holen, Clare Billings, Donna Patrick, Linda Walling, Eva Rooks, Stephanie Benfield, Cathy Townley

Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

Minutes

Motion: Council accepts the September 2004 minutes as written. The motion carried.

Chair's Remarks

George reminded Council members to fill out their pink sheets for the January meeting and return them to Linda.

George stated that Tracie Day has resigned from the Council.

He announced that it was time again to vote for the second vice-chair. The position is for one year and would fill in for the first vice-chair or chair as necessary. The nominee's are: Mike R., Diana Z., Vickie Foster and Rita Wang. Rita and Vickie asked that their names be removed as nominees. They both shared that they had submitted other people's names nominees.

Mike R. was voted the second vice-chair.

George encouraged Council members to attend their local legislative receptions if they can. King County reception will be held November 23rd at the Double Tree Inn and the Pierce County reception will be held December 7th at the Tacoma Community College Auditorium.

George stated that the January meeting will be held at the Courtyard Marriott in Federal Way. The hotel in Olympia where Council meetings have been held before did not have space available. The Legislative reception is going to be held at the newly remodeled Legislative Building in Olympia on January 19th, the day before the Council meeting. Staff will arrange transportation to and from the hotel for Council members.

Executive Director's Report

Ed distributed a flyer soliciting for volunteers for quality assurance teams that are currently being formed. Volunteers will work with the Division of Developmental Disabilities Quality Assurance Managers to survey individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The survey will cover services and support people are receiving on three of the division's four waivers. Volunteers will be trained to interview individuals in the local communities. There is funding to appropriately support self-advocates to participate. The information gathered will go to the DSHS Quality Assurance Manager.

Ed shared that the agency reimbursement process is taking longer than it used to. It can now take up to a month to receive your check. Some things that can speed up the process are to fill out the form completely and use ink. George shared that travel checks can be deposited electronically.

Ed stated that both candidates for governor have developed transition teams. DD advocates have created a document about DD issues and what they mean to us as a means of education for the new Governor. This information is being shared with both transitions teams.

Ed asked if our Council would like to host the fall national meeting of the Council's on Developmental Disabilities in 2006. The cost to the Council would be about \$10,000, plus the additional staff workload. He expects two to three hundred people would attend, along with federal administration staff. Many Council members were positive about hosting this event and would like Ed to pursue it. Ed will begin to look at logistics.

"Family Life and the Politics of Disability" Presentation

Sherrie B. introduced visual artist Susan Schwatzenberg, Kathi Whittaker and Harriet Sanderson of the Seattle Family Network. Ms. Schwatzenberg presented their joint project, "Becoming Citizens, Family Life and the Politics of Disability. It was initially funded through the Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs. This is a project of photographs, snapshots and interviews of 13 families in the Seattle area who raised children with developmental disabilities during the post World War II era.

The project traces the rise of activism of a generation of parents who refused to institutionalize their children. The centerpiece of the project tells the story of three Seattle mothers; Katie Dolan, Janet Taggart and Evelyn Chapman who joined with Cecile Lindquist and law students, Bill Dussault and George Breck to author and successfully lobby for the passage of the Education For All Act in 1971. This Washington State law mandated a public education for every child in the state. It also became a model for the Education For All Handicapped Children Act, passed as federal law in 1975.

The project will produce a book and exhibition. University of Washington Press will publish the book in the summer of 2005. The exhibition will be located at Suzzallo Library (U of W) in the fall of 2005 with a dedication event featuring former governor Daniel Evans. The presentation was made to inform members of the Council about the project and to seek further advice on potential sources for additional funding, as well as ways to embed the project more deeply into local communities. Please send any information and ideas to Kathi Whitaker at 206-523-1385.

Advocacy Partnership and Self-Advocacy Project

Sue Elliott, Grier Jewell and Lisa Remlinger from The Arc of Washington State presented information and updates on the activities of two DDC grants: the Advocacy Partnership Project and the Self Advocacy Initiative Project.

Grier shared that the Advocacy Partnership Project is a year-round effort to provide the "tools" of effective advocacy to individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members, as well as to coordinate statewide advocacy efforts related to developmental disabilities. Project staff provide information on issues and the legislative process, in addition to technical assistance to DD advocacy groups. Advocacy Day, held weekly during the legislative session, is a key feature of the project. The presence of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families raises awareness of DD issues and brings home the importance of real citizen involvement in shaping public policy. Over the years, the percentage of individuals with developmental disabilities has increased to the point that they now compose the majority of Advocacy Day participants.

Lisa shared that the Self Advocacy Initiative Project specifically focuses on building the strength of self-advocacy in Washington State. An essential component of the project is the work of three self-advocate coordinators who provide information and motivation to local self-advocacy groups to get involved in systems advocacy. The project promotes self-advocacy on several levels: from personal story telling about issues to group advocacy efforts and leadership. Project staff provide technical assistance to the Self Advocates in Leadership (SAIL), assistance to individuals and groups with letter writing, legislative forums/coffees and meetings with legislators.

Workgroups and Committees

Self Determination and Employment Workgroup

Diana Z. reported that the workgroup discussed:

- The big picture workplan and reported that they would like more joint sessions.

Public Policy Committee

Diana Z. reported that the Committee discussed:

- Legislative issues
- An ombudsman bill
- The legislative reception

There are a series of articles regarding people with disabilities from the Walla Walla Bulletin on the back table that Sherrie H. submitted.

Community Supports and Housing workgroup

Bill reported for Sara that the workgroup.

- Janet and Ed gave a mini assessment report on the unserved.
- Donna gave a report on the Home Care Quality Authority.
- Ed distributed copies of the Core Indicator report.

Health and Education Workgroup

Sherrie B. reported that the workgroup discussed:

- Amendment to performance targets on health care
- Protocols monitoring medication for people leaving institutions and moving into the community.
- WIN 211, 800 number clearing house.
- Special ed/early intervention
- No SEAC representative

The Council will no longer have a representative on SEAC, The State Special Education Advisory Council.

Kathi Watson, from the Seattle Family Network, gave a presentation on outreach training.

Governance Committee

Suzanne reported that the committee discussed:

- Reasonable Accommodations policy
- Support Person's Code of Conduct policy
- Sent the Council Member Participation and Attendance Policy back to Membership Committee
- Looking at conference attendance and leadership position, with possible policies
- Executive Director proposed 2004-2005 Do's and Don'ts Policy

Motion: The Council approve the 2004-2005 Executive Director "Do and Don't Policy". The motion carried with Joelle abstaining.

Membership Committee

Vickie reported that the committee discussed:

- Development Day
- New member recruitment (beginning now but the process could take longer because of the change in governor, Council is looking for more outreach and diversity)
- Interview panel chosen (interviews beginning of March)

She requested that if anyone has any other outreach ideas, to let the Membership Committee know.

Agency Reports

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

Janet presented a summary of the quality assurance activities of DDD for the last year that was prepared for the State Quality Assurance Advisory Committee. She also gave an update on the activities of both of the Real Choices grants. The mini assessment is expected to begin in September for all clients who do not receive services; and work on the new DDD assessments for children and adults will begin soon. Ed is representing the Council on the Advisory Committee. She updated the Council on the Children's CARE roll out and said that there should be data available from the Children's CARE assessments by the next time the Council meets. She also indicated that DDD is in its new headquarters and reminded people to contact them there.

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Lou shared that the Reauthorization of the Education Act is now on the Senate floor. Also, the Federal Department of Education is working on regulations. Lou stated that there are learning benchmarks on the website for people to review.

Aging and Disability Services

Patty reported that the proposed Cash and Counseling Project, New Freedom Initiative moves people from “client” status to “consumer” status as they exercise greater amounts of decision making authority and responsibility in their services. They have applied for a waiver to develop and implement the consumer directed program. Patty has an application for anyone who is interested. Fifteen advisory members have been chosen and the first meeting will be on December 6th.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Clare gave the report for Connee who was unable to attend the meeting. She stated that DVR opened the Priority One waiting list in October, releasing 2,000 individuals for services. Another 1,500 is anticipated for December and 1,500 in April. DVR will also tentatively release additional customers in June, depending on resources.

Through a data sharing agreement with DDD, all counties are being notified in advance which DD customers will be released from the waiting lists.

DVR completed the balance of its reorganization in October, eliminating seven positions in the state office and several clerical positions in field offices.

University Centers

Sherrie introduced women involved in publishing a forthcoming illustrated oral history of the efforts of a small group of women, including Cecile Lindquist, a former DDC Council member, to effect change for their children with developmental disabilities. The book, *Becoming Citizens: Family Life and the Politics of Disability*, will be published next fall by the University of Washington Press. The project is the brainchild of Kathi Whittaker and the Seattle Family Network, which includes people who have family members with a developmental disability. Compiled by artist/educator Susan Schwartzenberg, it is the chronicle of the lives of thirteen families who raised children with developmental disabilities in the Seattle area between 1940 and 1980.

Protection and Advocacy System (P&A)

Joelle congratulated Laethan for his appointment to the Council. She shared that P&A has contracted with her for one year to be their representative on the Council. They would like the Council to learn as much as possible what P&A is about. Anyone interested in the MAR lawsuit regarding individuals with developmental disabilities who are in state mental health hospitals, can talk with Joelle for information.

P&A is also interested in the implementation of the Help America Vote Act, which will give people with disabilities assistance in voting.

Evaluation of Executive Director – Step Two

George shared that evaluations forms for the Executive Director were distributed at the September Council meeting with return address envelopes to make it easier to fill out. He only received thirteen evaluations back. Copies were handed out for everyone to look at. George suggested adding a space to write in if you were a volunteer or an agency representative at the top of the form. He stated that he has discussed the evaluation with Ed.

Ed thanked the Council for their input. He passed out his self-assessment and discussed how he feels things have gone over the past year. Ed touched on the reimbursement concerns in his report at the beginning of the meeting. Those issues are being addressed. Also, staff is charged with administering the Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund. That is going very well. They are trying to do more outreach in ethnic communities. The Membership Committee is also working on outreach strategies along, with media flyers.

Ed shared that there is ongoing and unresolved dialogue about where the Council staff should “live” in state government. Should staff remain in Community, Trade and Economic Develop or become an independent agency, contracting budget and fiscal services from the Small Client Services Unit of the Office of Financial Management.

George shared that Ed has not received a salary increase in over five years. Ed's position was finally re-evaluated by the agency and he did receive a raise that was half of what was originally expected. He is now in an exempt position.

Motion: To approve the 2004-2005 Executive Director's Do's and Don't Policies.
Moved by Mike R. and seconded by Carol. Motion carried with Joelle abstaining.

With that the meeting was adjourned.